

Village of Gifford

Gifford, Illinois 61847  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Al Sikes, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1993

Dear Chairman Sikes:

We realize you have announced your resignation as Chair of the Federal Communications Commission; however, we're sure your interest in compliance by cable operators will exist after your departure.

Enclosed are copies of minutes from our village board meetings in which our residents/cable subscribers have complained about quality of picture (or no picture at all). We have communicated to Douglas Communications in Rantoul about these complaints, but beyond hearing "they are working on it", have received no improvement of service.

With the recent overwhelming support of the new cable regulation, we are hoping that the commission will cause Douglas Communications to provide the service it promised when the franchise was transferred to them.

Thank you for your kind and immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Gifford:

*Terrance Elgert* President  
*Norma Christians* Trustee  
*Debbie Mullins* Trustee  
*Paul Severin* Trustee  
*Martha King* Trustee  
*Richard McAdams* Trustee  
*Dorold Reberman* Trustee  
*Martin E. Osborn* Clerk

cc: Douglas Communications

1 copy  
ENCLOSURE  
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Regular Meeting July 2, 1992

King thanked Trustee Mullins for making and taking telephone calls for her. There were 91 entries in the parade. She also thanked John Harper and Cletus and Virgil McFadden for cleaning the streets before Sunday and the next morning after Sunday.

For a future project, she would like to update the Village history booklet and include new policies, such as burning, etc.

Someone has already asked about the Christmas Parade for this year.

King asked if we could invest in stronger brackets for the flags.

Glazik said the problem is not the bracket, it is the poles they are on.

King said the problem is not the bracket, it is the poles they are on.

Regular Meeting August 6, 1992

The Village Board of Trustees met at 7:00 p.m., DST, in the Village Board Room to hold their regular monthly meeting. Officers and Trustees present were President Glazik, Clerk Osborn, and Trustees Ackerman, Christians, King, McFadden, Mullins, and Severins.

Guests and observers included Village Residents Dave Bletscher, Edna Bowen, John Harper, Jerry King, Cletus McFadden and Gary Nojd.

An Inventory list of ESDA equipment as requested was submitted by Gary Nojd.

Nojd reported a couple of months earlier, he and Dave Bletscher had attended a sheriff's sale at which 2-way radios were sold. They bought three radios, including 11 batteries and a charger for \$ 150.00 total. Each radio will need crystals which will cost \$ 60.00 for each radio. The local ESDA had been using C.B. radios for storm spotting, but C.B.'s are practically useless in bad weather.

Trustee King noted the amount of the purchase was within the budget the Board approved for ESDA.

Police Chief Stevens asked if they were planning any educational programs to let people know what to do in case of emergency or bad weather.

Nojd said the local ESDA had about fallen apart, and it is taking time to get restructured.

Stevens said the siren can't be heard in the south part of town, and one police car can't notify everyone.

Nojd said they had a draft of a flyer they have been considering distributing by Rantoul Press or by hand to the local residents outlining what to do in case of emergency.

President Glazik said the national standard is a 3 minute continuous blast of the siren for notice of a storm coming, with up to 8 minutes notice.

Dave Bletscher said ESDA has been looking into new sirens, but it would take two to cover the Village.

Nojd said the last time FEMA offered a 50% grant, it would still have cost ESDA or the Village \$ 6000.00 for new sirens.

Trustee King asked when the FEMA grant would be offered again. Nojd said he would find out so we can work ahead if we need to accumulate money to pay for sirens.

The bill for the radios will be added to the bills to be considered later in the meeting.

Jerry King asked about senior citizens getting a discount on cable television.

Trustee Ackerman said Specchio had given senior citizen discounts for Gifford, but Douglas gives it only to Dillsburg.

Trustee Christians said she was told Country Health and their apartments get a discount.

President Glazik said he had received another letter from Douglas asking for a franchise assignment. Village Attorney Lee has advised Glazik to hold it until they come to a Board meeting to ask for it, and they can hear our concerns.

Regular Meeting August 6, 1992

Various complaints by Board Members and residents in attendance were voiced about outages and non-responsive service by Douglas Communications, providers of cable television.

Cletus McFadden reported three trees had been trimmed today by Marshal Huls.

As each Trustee and Officer had been given a printed copy of the minutes of the last regular meeting, a motion was entertained to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Trustee Severins moved the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Seconded by Trustee King. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote.

Outstanding bills were presented by Treasurer Duitsman:

The charges from J.U.L.I.E. covered the three months April thru June and was for 18 calls.

Motion was made by Trustee Christians to pay the bills. Seconded by Trustee Mullins. All trustees concurred in a roll call vote.

The Treasurers Report was given by Treasurer Duitsman. The balance in Village accounts as of July 31, 1992, was \$206,105.60. Total receipts for July were \$ 24,662.90. Total expenditures for the month were \$23,341.79.

The Village Police report was given by Police Chief Stevens. Stevens reported he and John Harper had put up two 'Children Playing' signs.

Regular Meeting September 3, 1992

Larry Trujillo, representative of Douglas Communications arrived and was granted permission to address the Board. He apologized for problems experienced lately by customers of Douglas Communications, and for problems being experienced today.

He said Douglas Communications has been in business for about six (6) years and operate in 15 states. He asked if anyone wished to discuss problems they have had.

President Glazik said it seems like the same old thing, the cable signal goes out in prime time more than anything else. They need some way to notify customers if the system is going to be down for a period of time. Trujillo said there's not much can be done about unexpected outages, but if they plan on major take downs in the future for changes, they will try to notify customers, probably by letter.

Trustee King asked about hearing discounts for senior citizens had been offered in Dillsburg, Rantoul, and Country Health, but not the rest of Gifford. Trujillo said he would check into it.

Trujillo said the company would make adjustment for outages if the customer called in to notify them of the outage.

Trustee Severins asked when lines across the ground will be buried? Trujillo said they will slowly get around to burying them. They expect it to take six to seven months to get the system where they want it to be.

Clerk Osborn noted the most frustrating thing about the outages, is when the company is called, there is no indication the call was ever received or that anyone is working on the problem. There have been instances where calls have been placed at the beginning of a weekend, but service has not been restored until after the beginning of the work week on Monday or later, with no call back to notify the customer action is being taken. He recommended the call in system be reviewed as soon as possible. Trujillo said the service messages are supposed to be checked regularly.

President Glazik noted Douglas Communications has requested a resolution about assignment of the franchise from Specchio CableVision. He said the Village Attorney will check the affected ordinances and the Board will act on the request next month.

The Treasurers Report was given by Treasurer Duitsman. The balance in Village accounts as of August 31, 1992, was \$206,373.47. Total receipts for August were \$ 21,607.61. Total expenditures for the month were \$21,339.74.

Village Attorney Ellen Lee presented a resolution for consideration to decline acceptance of a deed tendered to the Village by Bank of Rantoul for the Country Health Nursing Home in Gifford. The Village had been listed as a holder of the deed to allow issuance of revenue bonds, which have now been paid off. The deed will now go to the Country Health Management. Trustee King moved the resolution be accepted. Seconded by Trustee McFadden. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote.

Regular Meeting October 1, 1992

with Santa. She was able to get it in 'Hometown Highways'. Santa has been invited to attend.

Streets and Alley Report.

President Glazik reported the alleys are going to be graded again.

Joe Curtis and Herb Zendars cleaned most of the mess out behind the rock pile. Terry Ellis will be asked to grade it out. Herb took 15 to 20 loads of junk to the landfill before it closed. We haven't received the bill yet for the dumping charge. After it is leveled off, a fence will be put up to prevent any more dumping.

Old Business.

President Glazik read the letter from the Champaign County Recycling Company. The bid to keep the recycling center open after November 30, 1992, was for \$533.00 per month. Glazik said there was a meeting at the Champaign Library trying to get the County to keep funding it, but he couldn't get hold of anyone to find out what happened. The estimate is based on 1991 usage. It was well used, but we had problems getting it emptied when it would get full. Glazik couldn't get in touch with Combest to see if they are interested in installing and maintaining a recycling center, and what they would charge.

Trustee Ackerman said there is a company called Pine Center Development Company of Thomasboro, which is in the process of putting in an incineration system on the base which will produce steam from garbage.

Regular Meeting January 7, 1993

accepting newspapers. They are hard to get rid of.

Clarke said he would try to have more information by the February